

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4560

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6156

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

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SUBJECT: SECOND TURKISH NOTE CONCERNING SISMIK

REF: ANKARA 6081

1. THE MFA HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH A COPY OF ITS NOTE OF AUGUST 10 RESPONDING TO THE SECOND GREEK DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. THE COMPLETE, ORIGINAL-ENGLISH TEXT OF THE SECOND TURKISH NOTE FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT:

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE AND WITH REFERENCE TO THEIR NOTE NO. F. 6242.42/AS 2196, OF 9 AUGUST, 1976 HAS THE HONOUR TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING:

THE PRESENT TENSION IN THE AEGEAN HAS STEMMED FROM THE POSITION OF GREECE WHICH DOES NOT DISTINGUISH ALLEGATIONS FROM RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA HAS NOT YET BEEN DELIMITED. THEREFORE, THE GREEK POSITION CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS BEING BASED ON MERE ALLEGATIONS. DEPARTING FROM THESE ALLEGATIONS, GREECE PRETENDS THAT HER OWN SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN HAVE BEEN VIOLATED BY TURKEY.

IT SHOULD REITERATED THAT UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS OR ALLEGATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A LEGAL BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING SOVEREIGN RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. NO ALLEGATION CAN BE VIOLATED UNLESS IT HAS BEEN ACQUIRED AS RIGHT BY VIRTUE OF LAW. VIOLATION OF ALLEGATION IS LEGALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

THIS FACT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND MORE RECENTLY IN ITS NOTE OF 8 AUGUST 1976. IT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE IN THE GREEK NOTE OF 9 AUGUST, 1976 SHOULD BE EVALUATED WITHIN THIS CONTEXT. RESEARCHES OF AN UNARMED AND UNESCORTED CIVILIAN VESSEL CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE
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AEGEAN ARE FULLY IN LINE WITH THIS STATEMENT AND CAN IN NO WAY BE QUALIFIED AS PROVOCATIVE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT IN THE PAST GREECE HAD CARRIED OUT SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN.

CONSEQUENTLY, GREEK ASSERTION THAT HER SOVEREIGN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED IS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED.

THE ACTIVITIES OF MTA SISMİK-I ARE IN NO WAY
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.
FURTHERMORE, THE RESEARCHES UNDERTAKEN BY MTA SISMİK-I CANNOT
BE CONSIDERED AS AN IMPEDIMENT FOR THE SUCCESS OF BILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE,
IN ORDER TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE AEGEAN
CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTION.

AS IT HAS ALSO BEEN STATED IN THE GREEK NOTE OF
9 AUGUST, 1976 THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES MADE PUBLIC ON
MARCH 1976 THAT MTA SISMİK-I WOULD CARRY OUT RESEARCHES IN
THE AEGEAN SEA. GREECE, IN FULL AWARENESS OF THIS,
TOOK PART IN BERN MEETING OF JUNE, 1976 AND THUS ACCEPTED
THE ACTIVITIES OF MTA SISMİK-I WOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS
AN OBSTACLE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE
THAT MTA SISMİK-I IS FULFILLING ITS TASK IN ACCORDANCE
WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EMPHASIZES ONCE AGAIN THAT THE
GREEK ALLEGATIONS AND PROTESTS CONTAINED IN THE EMBASSY'S
NOTE OF 9 AUGUST, 1976 AS WELL AS IN ITS NOTE OF 7 AUGUST,
1976, WHICH ARE BASED ON PURELY ARBITRARY AND EXTRA
JURIDICAL GROUNDS, ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE
ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE THAT SINCE 6 AUGUST, 1976,
THE TURKISH RESEARCH VESSEL MTA SISMİK-I IS UNDER THE
HARASSMENT OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO THE GREEK
NAVY AND AIR FORCE. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT VIGOROUSLY
PROTESTS SUCH ILLEGAL ACTS AND REQUESTS THE GOVERNMENT OF
GREECE TO PUT AN END TO THESE ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY ALSO STATES THAT THE
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RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY UNDESIRABLE INCIDENT THAT MIGHT OCCUR
AS A RESULT OF SUCH PROVOCATIVE ACTION WILL LIE WITH GREECE.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE THE
ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.
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